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NOMINATIONS TO THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION

HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-NINTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

THE NOMINATIONS OF BRIG. GEN. THOMAS ALLEN SANDS TO BE PRESIDENT AND MEMBER OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION AND BRIG. GEN. ROBERT JOSEPH DARCEY TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION

APRIL 17, 1985

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NOMINATIONS TO THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1985

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, in room SD-406, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Robert T. Stafford (chairman of the committee), presiding.

Senator STAFFORD. The committee will be in order. The committee has before it the nominations of Brig. Gen. Thomas Allen Sands, to be president and a member of the Mississippi River Commission, and Brig. Gen. Robert Joseph Dacey to be a member of the Mississippi River Commission. Both nominees have long and distinguished careers with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the committee is pleased to welcome them here today.

General Sands, General Dacey, we are prepared at this point to receive any statements you would care to make, and in whichever order of rank you determine that you should go.

STATEMENT OF BRIG. GEN. THOMAS ALLEN SANDS, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NOMINEE TO BE PRESIDENT AND MEMBER OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION

General SANDS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am Brig. Gen. Thomas Sands; I'm the Commander of the Lower Mississippi Valley Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and it's an honor for me to be here today to appear before you as nominee for president of the Commission.

The Commission is a seven-member Commission—three members from the Army Corps of Engineers, one of whom serves as President; one from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and three from the civilian sector. Two of the members from the civilian sector must be civil engineers.

As you know, the Commission is responsible for a significant effort in the lower Mississippi Valley in ensuring appropriate flood control and navigation for that area of the country. It's an immense responsibility. Its responsibilities focus on the Flood Control Act of 1928 that created the Mississippi River and Tributaries project. It carries out its task in close coordination with a myriad of political institutions, individuals, and public bodies. The success of the project, in and of itself, owes a great deal to the Commission and its intense public involvement process.

As you are well aware, although the project itself touches only seven States, its area is the area of which roughly 40 percent of the water of the U.S. drains. That's roughly 31 States and part of two Canadian Provinces. I think the Mississippi River and Tributaries project is truly significant. A major flood on the Mississippi River would have catastrophic results to the inhabitants of the lower valley and the inland navigation system of the United States, but for the levees and other protection works that the MR&T project provides

The navigation feature of the project is essential to maintaining a vast inland navigation system that provides access from inland ports to world markets. The traffic on the system is roughly some 400 million tons a year, so that is a significant benefit to the Nation.

I'm a 1958 graduate of the Military Academy, have a master's degree in civil engineering and a law degree; I have had a number of assignments in the recent past that are directly related to the Army's water resources responsibilities. I served as an Assistant Director of Civil Works in the Office of the Director of Civil Works, Office, Chief of Engineers here in Washington. I was the District Engineer in New Orleans for a 3-year period. The responsibilities of the district are primarily those that relate to the Mississippi River Commission. The last 3 years, I was Commander of the Corps' North Atlantic Division.

That concludes my statement, Mr. Chairman. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Senator STAFFORD. Thank you, General.

General Dacey.

STATEMENT OF BRIG. GEN. ROBERT J. DACEY, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NOMINEE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION

General DACEY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I am Brig. Gen. Robert J. Dacey, Commander of the Southwestern Division of the Corps of Engineers. I am also honored to appear before the committee as a nominee as a member of the Mississippi River Commission, to explain my qualifications and experience for the confirmation now under consideration.

Since General Sands has covered the spectrum of the duties of the Commission, I'll go directly, sir, to my qualifications.

I bring 26 years of service in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I hold a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Norwich University in Vermont, a BS in——

Senator STAFFORD. What was that again, General? From Norwich University?

General DACEY. A great institution, sir.

Senator STAFFORD. I graduated from Middlebury, so I have some personal acquaintance with Norwich.

General DACEY. I carry some hockey scars from the Middlebury team, sir.

I have a bachelor degree in civil engineering from the University of Missouri at Rolla, an MBA in procurement and contract management from George Washington University here in Washington,

and have attended the advanced management institute at Northwestern University. I am also a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College.

As Commander and Division Engineer of the Southwestern Division, I share with the people of the Alluvial Valley an intense interest in the present and future of the mainstem Mississippi River. Because of my experience as Commander of the St. Louis District, which is a part of the Lower Mississippi Valley Division and the MR&T project, I do have some knowledge of the working of the Commission and appreciate the work that the Commission does. I also know of the respect that the Commission has from the people because of these associations.

If confirmed I, too, would look forward to being a part of a body concerned with the continued support of safely passing flood waters of the Gulf of Mexico and providing a safe and dependable navigation project so important to the Nation's best interests, both in peace and in war. I would be pleased to answer any questions you might have, sir.

Senator STAFFORD. Thank you very much, General.

I might ask you both if you care to comment on this. This committee has expressed concern in the past that the national interest might be better served by turning the work of the MRC over to the Board of Engineeers for Rivers and Harbors. Has that proposal ever been given serious consideration by the Army, and do you have any comments with respect to it?

General SANDS. I might add to the first, sir, by simply stating that I think that the purposes for which the Mississippi River Commission was established are as valid, if not more so, today than they were when the Commission was established. You are well aware of the growth of the economy in the area, the number of people living there, and the consequences of a flood are significant.

In its relation to the Board of Engineers and Rivers and Harbors, I would just point out that the Board has the single responsibility of independently reviewing preauthorization reports. The reports are reviewed on an independent basis. The Mississippi River Commission has much broader responsibilities than those of the Board. While it is responsibilities for reviewing elements of the MR&T project in the preauthorization stage, I would point out that that review is not reviewing each project as an independent entity. The review of the separate elements of the MR&T project must be done with an overall consideration of the other elements of the project. So when a preauthorization comes through that relates to something being done, for example, in the St. Louis District area, its impact on the remainder of the project, features below that area, must be considered also.

I would also point out that the responsibility of the Commission are not just in the area of planning. The Mississippi River Commission is responsible for the implementation of the project, and that is no small task. It conducts its business continually; it meets with the public and holds public hearings about 10 times, on an annual basis. So I would just say that there is a significant difference between the Commission and the Board.

Senator STAFFORD. Thank you, General.

Do you have anything additional to that, General Dacey?

STATEMENT OF

BRIGADIER GENERAL THOMAS A. SANDS

COMMANDER AND DIVISION ENGINEER

LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

UNITED STATES SENATE

ON HIS NOMINATION

TO BE PRESIDENT AND MEMBER OF

THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION

APRIL 17, 1985

WASHINGTON, D.C.

46-754 O—85——2

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

I am Brigadier General Thomas A. Sands, Commander and Division Engineer, Lower Mississippi Valley Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I am honored to appear before you as nominee for President and Member of the Mississippi River Commission.

The Commission consists of seven Members. Three are Corps of Engineers officers -- one of which serves as President. One is from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and three are from the civilian sector. Two of the civilians must be civil engineers.

From its inception in 1879, the Commission has been charged with the vital task of planning and implementing a program to develop and control the lower Mississippi River. This task continues to be conducted in concert with the myriad of political institutions, individuals, and public bodies who have a major interest in seeing that the water resources needs and opportunities of the Alluvial Valley are adequately and imaginatively met.

The Mississippi River and Tributaries project, approved in the Flood Control Act of May 5, 1928, and modified many times in detail since, is a unique undertaking. While the MR&T project covers portions of seven states, it provides an outlet for water from all or part of 31 states and part of 2 Canadian provinces, or roughly 41 percent of the contiguous United States. Its cost of nearly $4 billion to date has been repaid many times over. Effective planning, construction, and operation of the widespread and complex project have been helped immensely by the Commission's

active consultation with the public, particularly on its semiannual inspection trips, and by the high level of professionalism that has been developed in its staff.

The MR&T project is truly of nationwide significance. A major Mississippi River flood would have catastrophic effects on the inhabitants of the Valley and the economy of the nation were it not for the protection of the levees and other flood control works.

The navigation features of the project are essential to maintaining the river for access between inland ports and world markets. The heartland of America benefits from the flow of traffic. The navigation project is essential in peace time and vital to our national defense in times of emergency. For example, tonnage on the river is approximately 400 million tons. It also connects the nation's heartland with the nation's largest port in terms of tonnage.

I am a 1958 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and have a Master's Degree from Texas A&M University. I also have a Law Degree from George Mason University. I completed the Armed Forces Staff College and the Army War College. I am a registered professional engineer in the State of Tennessee.

I have held numerous jobs in the Corps of Engineers which pertain to the pending confirmation. I worked as Assistant Director of Civil Works. This involved administration and management of Washington level activities for Corps of Engineers field offices, i.e. Districts and Divisions. I have also served as District Engineer, New Orleans District. That

assignment included managing the District's activities for the Mississippi River and Tributaries project, which is under the jurisdiction of the Mississippi River Commission. I had the opportunity to report to the Commission on several occasions while serving in the District. I have from that assignment and from my current assignment, some knowledge of the Commission's responsibility and how it works.

I have a total of 27 years of military service.

If confirmed to the post, Mr. Chairman, I would look forward to participating in the continual improvement of the MR&T project, applying the best of modern practices in water resources engineering. I would similarly look forward to being a part of a body concerned with the continued effort of safely passing floodwaters to the Gulf of Mexico and providing a safe and dependable navigation project so important to the nation's best interest.

I would be pleased to respond to any questions.

RESUME OF SERVICE CAREER

of

THOMAS ALLEN SANDS, Brigadier General

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH 7 June 1935, Columbia, Tennessee

YEARS OF ACTIVE COMMISSIONED SERVICE Over 26

PRESENT ASSIGNMENT Commanding General, United States Army Engineer Division, Lower Mississippi Valley, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180, since July 1984

MILITARY SCHOOLS ATTENDED
United States Army Engineer School, Basic and Advanced Courses
Armed Forces Staff College
United States Army War College

EDUCATIONAL DEGREES
United States Military Academy - BS Degree
Texas A&M University - MS Degree - Civil Engineering

RECENT MAJOR DUTY ASSIGNMENTS

FROM	TO	ASSIGNMENT
Jul 70	Mar 71	Executive Officer, United States Army Engineer Construction Agency, Vietnam
Mar 71	Sep 71	Commander, 26th Engineer Battalion, 23rd Infantry Division (Americal), Vietnam
Sep 71	Nov 72	Chief, Organization and Manpower Utilization Branch, Staff Management Division, Office, Chief of Staff, United States Army, Washington, DC
Dec 72	Jul 73	Military Assistant to the Deputy Under Secretary of the Army, Washington, DC
Jul 73	Jun 74	Student, United States Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania
Jul 74	Jun 75	Assistant Director of Civil Works, Office, Chief of Engineers, United States Army, Washington, DC
Jun 75	Apr 78	Personnel Management Officer, later Chief, Programs Branch, Colonels Division, Officer Personnel Management Directorate, United States Army Military Personnel Center, Alexandria, Virginia
Apr 78	Aug 81	District Engineer, United States Army Engineer District, New Orleans, Louisiana
Aug 81	Jul 84	Commanding General, United States Army Engineer Division, North Atlantic, New York, New York

THOMAS ALLEN SANDS, Brigadier General

PROMOTIONS	DATES OF APPOINTMENT	
	Temporary	Permanent
2LT		4 Jun 58
1LT	4 Dec 59	4 Jun 61
CPT	26 Oct 62	4 Jun 65
MAJ	18 May 66	4 Jun 72
LTC	8 Jul 70	4 Jun 79
COL	1 Aug 77	
BG		1 Jul 82

US DECORATIONS AND BADGES
Legion of Merit
Distinguished Flying Cross (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters)
Bronze Star Medal
Meritorious Service Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster)
Air Medals
Army Commendation Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster)
Senior Aviator Badge

SOURCE OF COMMISSION USMA

As of 18 July 1984

STATEMENT OF

BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBERT J. DACEY

COMMANDER AND DIVISION ENGINEER

SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

UNITED STATES SENATE

ON HIS NOMINATION

TO BE A MEMBER OF

THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION

APRIL 17, 1985

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

I am Brigadier General Robert J. Dacey, Commander and Division Engineer, Southwestern Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I am also honored to appear before you as nominee for a Member of the Mississippi River Commission and to explain my qualifications and experience for the confirmation now under consideration.

General Sands has explained some of the responsibilities and functions of the Mississippi River Commission.

Mr. Chairman, as professional qualifications for Member, I bring 26 years as a Corps officer. I hold a BS in Business Administration from Norwich University, a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla, an MBA in Procurement and Contract Management from George Washington University, and attended the Institute of Advanced Management at Northwestern University. In addition, I attended the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College. I am a registered professional engineer in the State of Wisconsin.

As Commander and Division Engineer of the Southwestern Division, I share with the people of the Alluvial Valley an intense interest in the present and future of the main stem Mississippi River. Because of my experience as Commander of the St. Louis District, which is a part of the Lower Mississippi Valley Division and the MR&T project, I have intimate knowledge of the workings of the Commission and appreciate the work that the Commission does, and I know of the respect that the Commission has from the people because of its actions.

If confirmed, I, too, would look forward to being a part of a body concerned with the continued effort of safely passing floodwaters to the Gulf of Mexico and providing a safe and dependable navigation project so important to the nation's best interest.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you might have.

RESUME OF SERVICE CAREER

of

ROBERT JOSEPH DACEY, Brigadier General

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH 15 May 1935, Watertown, New York

YEARS OF ACTIVE COMMISSIONED SERVICE Over 25 .

PRESENT ASSIGNMENT Commanding General, United States Army Engineer Division Southwestern, Dallas, Texas 75202, since August 1983

MILITARY SCHOOLS ATTENDED
The Engineer School, Basic and Advanced Courses
United States Army Command and General Staff College
United States Army War College

EDUCATIONAL DEGREES
Norwich University - BS Degree - Business Administration
University of Missouri - BS Degree - Civil Engineering
George Washington University - MA Degree - Business Administration

RECENT MAJOR DUTY ASSIGNMENTS

FROM	TO	ASSIGNMENT
Jun 69	Jun 71	Executive Assistant to the Chief of Engineers, Washington, DC
Jun 71	Aug 72	Student, George Washington University, Washington, DC
Aug 72	Dec 73	Staff Officer, Force Development and Plans Division, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, United States Army, Washington, DC
Dec 73	Jul 75	Commander, 34th Engineer Battalion, Fort Riley, Kansas
Aug 75	Jun 76	Student, United States Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania
Jun 76	Jan 77	Chief, Management Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Engineer, United States Army Europe
Jan 77	Jun 79	Chief, Plans Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, United States Army Europe
Jun 79	Sep 82	District Engineer, United States Army Engineer District, St. Louis, Missouri
Sep 82	Jul 83	Forces Command Engineer, United States Army Forces Command, Fort McPherson, Georgia

ROBERT JOSEPH DACEY, Brigadier General

PROMOTIONS	DATES OF APPOINTMENT	
	Temporary	Permanent
2LT		4 Jan 59
1LT	4 Jul 60	4 Jun 62
CPT	7 Jan 63	4 Jan 66
MAJ	24 Feb 67	4 Jan 73
LTC	7 Feb 72	4 Jan 80
COL	1 Oct 77	15 Mar 82
BG		1 Jul 83

US DECORATIONS AND BADGES
Legion of Merit (with Oak Leaf Cluster)
Bronze Star Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster)
Meritorious Service Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters)
Air Medal
Army Commendation Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters)

SOURCE OF COMMISSION ROTC

As of 17 April 1984